

***Bordetella pertussis/parapertussis* (Whooping cough)
Nasopharyngeal Smear by DFA**

Administering Department: Microbiology

Test Contact: Vivian Lockary (208) 334-2235 ext 257, Cori Larson ext 255

Purpose of Test:

This test uses direct fluorescence antibody microscopy to detect *Bordetella pertussis*, the causative agent of “Whooping Cough”, in smears prepared from nasopharyngeal specimens.

Sample and Submission Guidelines: See *Bordetella pertussis* Collection, Materials and Procedures

Specimen Rejection Criteria:

- Broken Slides
- Slides without adequate sample material
- Mislabeled slides or specimen
- Unlabeled slides or specimen

Method: Direct Fluorescent Antibody (DFA) Microscopy

Possible Results and Meaning:

- This test can provide presumptive identification on an isolate and should be analyzed in combination with cultural, morphological or serological characteristics.
- A positive DFA on a clinical sample is not indicative of disease because it can result from dead cells or from cross-reaction with other bacteria; therefore, the test results should only be used in conjunction with culture and/or PCR and clinical presentation.
- A negative DFA on a clinical sample does not conclusively rule out infection. Low numbers of organism may not be detected.

Charge for test: There are currently no charges for *Bordetella pertussis/parapertussis* DFA

Turn-Around-Time: 48 hours

Links: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/pertussis_t.htm